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David W. Ferrie file suppressions 2/6/70

In CD75 alone, 38 pages are indexed to Ferrie. I believe it possible pages not listed in the index relate to him or are relevant to this rather extensive investigation of him, much greater than in any way indicated officially. All but three of these pages are withheld from research. When I originally studied the withholding in this file three years ago, there were a total of 117 pages withheld. Ferrie, therefore, represents a third of all the withholding in this very large file.

I do not believe the withholding is legitimate. I believe it is suppression. That Ferrie was a homosexual was public knowledge, as was the fact that certain of the men variously involved in the assassination investigation lived with him. Therefore, protection of these people from public opinion is not a reason for such withholding. Ferrie was childless, never married, so the feelings of a non-existent family cannot account for it. There was no federal law-enforcement jurisdiction, so this provision of the Freedom of Information Act is not applicable. Offhand, I see nothing that really is.

In an effort to piece together what kight be the subject and substance of these pages, I have gone over the index and listed all names associated with his. In one or two cases, I have listed those sandwiched between pages bearing his name on the assumption they may be relevant to the investigation reflected. Among the surprising and obvious observations is the absence of any reference to Banister, while there are 10 to Jack Martin. And there are 13 references to Wray Gill, probably the most frequent.

Many of these names are well known to those working in the field. Some are obscure. Others may be the names of assorted officials (i.e. police) or other functionaries (like credit bureau). I believe it would be worthwhile doing this with every possible file and adding it all together. I think, also, it might be worth comparing with Milton Brener's representation of FBI interviews with his clients (from his book, the only immediate source).

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Sorry I put the preceeding sheet in backward. Got a phone call as I was placing it in machine. It can be read by hilding to light.

There are other possibilities. Dor example, P.321 lists O'Sullivan, Joe Thompson and Ed Voebel. That report may make no reference to any inquiry as to Ferrie's CAP connection, but is it likely that did not come up in the interview? In several cases, a few pages, withheld and not withheld, appear between series of Ferrie pages. If it cannot safely be assumed they must be relevant, it also cannot safely be assumed they cannot be.

Names associated with the two TV newsmen indicated this had no connection with the Oswald-ITM film.

For some reason the name Harold Henderson, P. 312, seems familiar, It follows a Ferrie series and preceeds what seem to be CAP names.

I hope something similar to this can be done for all CDs. If it can be, then I think it would be worth the little effort for someone who has access to a 1963 N.O. city directory to check the names out for a)address and b)employment.

I find Brener's explanation of this great FBI interest in his clients lacking. They did not have to be interviewed this often, with reports written when it so often was FBI style not to, just because they knew Ferrie. Regardless of what may be in these suppressed documents, and need I tell you the FBI was not always all-inclusive?, they reflect a disproportionate interest in Ferrie, Brener's clients and others connected in some way with Ferrie.

There once was a separate file of Ferrie CD75 documents. The file folder bears Marion Johnson's rather distinctive handwriting. Last week there was but a single document in in, pp. 199-200, and there is more not withheld. There was no reference to any withheld. One not knowing would look at this folder and assume there is but the single Ferrie document in CD75.

Harold Weisberg

CC Mary, Paul, Gary